DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 387 149 IR 055 677

TITLE	Gopher It! Information On-Line at the U.S. Department of Education. Consumer Guide Number 13.
INSTITUTION	National Inst. on the Education of At-Risk Students (OERI/ED), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO	AR-95-7027
PUB DATE	Sep 95
NOTE	4p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Standards; *Educational Resources; Family Life Education; Federal Legislation; *Government Publications; *Information Sources; Statistical Data
IDENTIFIERS	*Department of Education; *Gopher; Internet; National Center for Educational Statistics

ABSTRACT

The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) National Library of Education is working to make a wide variety of reports, news releases, and other documents available through the Internet. The information available online is varied, and is constantly being updated. As of May 1995, the gopher site (gopher.ed.gov) included: full-text versions of key legislation, including the "Goals 2000: Educate America Act" and the "Improving America's Schools Act of 1994"; a collection of academic standards and documents about the development of standards, use of standards, and other standards-related issues; family involvement information, including full-text versions of the "Helping Your Child" series; "Education Consumer Guides" that provide brief descriptions of key educational programs, teaching and learning methods, and assessment techniques; and ED press releases, selected speeches and testimony by the Secretary of Education, and guides to ED programs. In addition, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has placed full-text version of many of its report online, including "The Condition of Education," "The Digest of Education Statistics," "Education in States and Nations: 1988," and "Youth Indicators." A few tips are given on accessing information through the Internet. (MAS)

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Consumer Guide

Gopher It! Information On-Line at the U.S. Department of Education

Number 13 - September 1995

by National Institute on the Education of At-Risk Students

IR055677

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U.S. Department of Education

Consumer Guide

Number 13 September 1995

Gopher It! Information On-Line at the U.S. Department of Education

The ED Gopher

It's late at night; you've got a briefing to give tomorrow morning; and you don't have the information you need at hand. Who are you going to call? The U.S. Department of Education gopher! The U.S. Department of Education's National Library of Education is working to make a wide variety of reports, news releases, and other documents available on-line through the Internet.

Our gopher address is ***gopher.ed.gov***. If you are unable to access our site directly, you can reach it from a main gopher tree by selecting North America→USA→General→U.S. Department of Education.

What Is Available?

The information available on line is varied, and is constantly being updated. As of May 1995, the gopher site included

- Full-text versions of key legislation, including the *Goals 2000: Educate America Act* and the *Improving America's Schools Act of 1994*;
- A collection of academic standards and documents about the development of standards, use of standards, and other standards-related issues, including descriptions of ED-funded projects for the development of state-level curriculum frameworks and content standards;
- Family involvement information, including full-text versions of the *Helping Your Child* series, a series of booklets on different education topics designed to help parents support their children's learning;
- *Education Consumer Guides* that provide brief descriptions of key educational programs, teaching and learning methods, and assessment techniques such as Success For All, Reading Recovery, Comer Schools, and Performance Assessment; and
- ED press releases, selected speeches and testimony by the Secretary of Education, and guides to ED programs.

In addition, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has placed full-text versions of many of its reports on line, including:

- *The Condition of Education*. *The Condition* contains 60 indicators of the condition of education. Each indicator is presented on two pages, with findings summarized in textual, tabular, and graphical formats. The 60 indicators are organized into six sections: Access, Participation, and Progress; Achievement, Attainment, and Curriculum; Economic and Other Outcomes of Education; Size, Growth, and Output of Educational Institutions; Climate, Classrooms, and Diversity in Educational Institutions; and Human and Financial Resources of Educational Institutions.
- The *Digest of Education Statistics*. The *Digest* contains a wealth of statistics on elementary/secondary enrollment, higher education, teachers, student performance, international comparisons of achievement, graduates and degrees, and educational expenditures.

- *Education in States and Nations: 1988.* This volume includes 16 education indicators grouped into four categories: background, participation, outcomes, and finance. The presentation of each indicator includes an explanation of what it measures, why it is important, and key results from a comparison of countries and states. In addition to the explanations and key results, the presentation of each indicator includes separate tables for states and countries and a graph that displays states and countries together.

- *Youth Indicators. Youth Indicators* contains statistics that address important aspects of the lives of youth—family, work, education, health, behavior, and attitudes. It is intended to be of use to agency officials and others in public life concerned with integrating human services for youth and their families. Whenever possible, tables go as far back as 1950, or even earlier, providing needed historical context for today's issues. Each indicator contains a table, chart, and brief descriptive text.

A Few Final Words

- The material in our gopher can be downloaded to your PC for reading or for "cutting and pasting" into other documents. The exact procedures for downloading will vary depending on your site and the software you are using to access the system.

- Some of our on-line files (generally, the big ones) are compressed ("zipped") and need to be "unzipped" before you can read them. (These files will have the word "zip" in the title line.) If you do not have decompression software, you can download it from our site: gopher to U.S. Department of Education →About this Gopher →ED Utilities for Files in this Gopher. This directory contains compression/decompression software for a variety of microcomputer systems.

- While you're on-line, be sure to check out what ERIC (the Educational Resources Information Center) has to offer. In addition to ERIC Digests, Access ERIC Brochures, ERIC Bibliographies, and lesson plans, there's AskERIC, an Internet-based question answering service for teachers, library media specialists, administrators, and others interested in education.

Please note:

- The U. S. Department of Education does not offer public access gopher clients. You must either have an appropriate gopher client at your site or be able to telnet to a public access client elsewhere.

- You cannot access the ED public servers by telneting to the site. You will be denied telnet access.

- Be sure to check the dates on all materials you access through the Internet. Some sites leave old information on-line or do not update files frequently.

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This *Consumer Guide* is part of a series prepared by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. To be added to the *Consumer Guide* mailing list, send your name and address to *Consumer Guides*, OERI, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Room 610, Washington, DC 20208. *Consumer Guides* are also available on the Internet at ***gopher.ed.gov***. This document is in the public domain and may be freely reproduced in part or in its entirety without permission. Please credit OERI. If you have questions about this particular guide, please write to Judith Anderson at the address above, through the Internet at ***janderso@inet.ed.gov***, by telephone at (202) 219–2086, or by FAX at (202) 219–2030.

AR 95–7027

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This *Consumer Guide* is produced by the National Institute on the Education of At-Risk Students, Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), U.S. Department of Education

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